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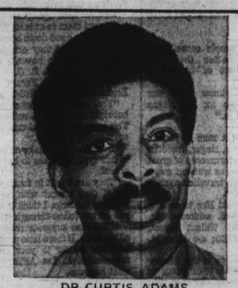

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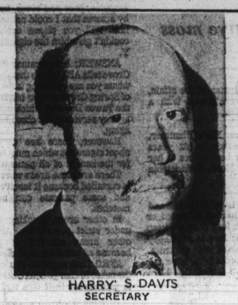

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Dr. Patterson scheduled to leave; Board's secret plans revealed

Dr. Roland N. Patterson, superintendent of Baltimore schools, admits he has plans to move on to another system in September.

In a recent statement to the AFRO he said Chicago has asked him to take the $58,000 post to head its system and, "I am considering it."

The AFRO learned two weeks ago that the School Board knew of Dr Patterson's plans to leave and in a private session had talked over possible replacements.

• • •

At that time, the AFRO learned, No. 1 on the Board's private consideration was Dr. Rebecca Carroll, who the Board said might take Dr. Patterson's $50,000 post "if and when."

The AFRO learned also two weeks ago that the Board felt unanimously that "Dr. Patterson has come to the point of no return" and would have to be replaced "whether he has another job or not."

At that time, it was decided that the ordeal of letting him go "would be easier" if he had another job.

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The above facts secretly known to the Board, possibly determined the Board's unprecedented move in the meeting Thursday night when it thumbed down Dr. Patterson's recommendations on the four top administrative posts he wanted filled.

Dr. Rebecca Carroll, assistant superintendent of instruction, according to Dr. Patterson's plans, was to move to deputy superintendent of education to succeed Dr. Vernon Vavrina who retired last month.

• • •

The Board's unprecendented veto of Patterson's recommendations came in executive session Thursday night.

Here is the way it was done:

Commissioner Glover McCrea made a motion that was later tabled to put a moratorium on all promotions until such time when the board could review these appointments.

He said, "If we are to upgrade our schools we must first look at these promotions and consider whether they are persons best qualified to aid us in implementing our desegregation next fall."

Commissioner Howard E. Marshall seconded the motion.

The vote was never taken because Dr. Patterson spoke and it was asked before he voted, if Mr. McCrea would accept the resolution and not a motion. Thus he changed it to a resolution. There was never a vote on the resolution.

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Dr. Patterson, somewhat angered by Mr McCrea's statement, said, "Some of the promotions are very important for this department. A freeze at this time would only hamper our implementation of desegregation."

However, the Board did adopt the resolutions that these new appointments would be reviewed again for any necessary changes.

All members of the board were present.

The Thursday night School Board meeting dragged on over three hours as more than 15 speakers brought testimony urging repairs and improvements for their schools.

A summary was presented on the improvements made at Lombard Junior High during the 3-day extended Faster vacation.

Mrs. Thelma Cox, Region II superintendent, told the board that most of the school's deficiencies had been improved.

Some 79 professional teaching positions are now filled in the school by full-time teachers, three administrators have been added to serve as unit heads and a full-time reading specialist will now work with students for remedial reading.

In addition, two security officers have been placed at the school bringing the total to four and four clerical education assistants have been assigned.

The school has also established two adjustment centers to accommodate students who are disruptive and are constant hall walkers.

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Mrs. Cox stated, "We are aware that miracles don't happen overnight. But at least we are now moving in the right direction."

One teacher, Mrs. Roberta Sharper who had previously charged that the problems at Lombard had gone ignored by the board and the regional office, stood in full support of the changes and commended the regional staff and school staff for the smooth opening of the school on Thursday.

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Parents, teachers and students were on hand to make a plea for similiar action at Clifton Junior High, also in Region II.

Various areas needing repairs were cited, such as a leaking roof, falling plaster, broken floor tiles and toilet facilitators without doors.

A steering committee had been formed to attack these and other problems such as inadequate staff, vandalism, student absenteeism and lack of enrichment programs.

DR. ROLAND N. PATTERSON
set to leave Baltimore

In a report broken into four parts, the group presented a plan aimed to solve many of those problems.

The board was asked to adopt them in an attempt to upgrade the deteriorating school.

In a heated exchange of statements, several board members attacked the school system's lag in handling several matters.

Commissioner Grover McCrea stated, "Something is wrong with this department when it allows these problems to continue."

Dr. Roland N. Patterson, usually a quiet school superintendent, spoke out in strong disagreement with Mr McCrea by saying, "Our schools have had problems since 1930. We are not able to acquire for many reasons the workmen, teachers and administrators needed to carry out the solution to every problem in every school.

"But it is so easy to blame our staff for those problems. But our staff members are doing more than their job and not being paid adequately for one."

In other action, the board turned down a motion to accept a modified renovation for Forest Park High.

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The school came under criticism by parents and faculty who complained of poor conditions and threatened to boycott the school if repairs were not made by next fall.

DR. REBECCA CARROLL
to succeed Dr. Patterson???

Lewis Richardson, Region VI superintendent, brought requests from the Forest Park community that the board approve the option to either totally renovate the school or replace it.

However, the board held over a decision pending further discussion with the community this Saturday.

Aside from the usual matters, the meeting which began at 8 p.m. in the Coldstream Park Elementary School was highlighted by musical selections from Patterson High's Clipper Choir.

The Clipper Choir, approaching its 25th year, which includes over 200 students.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 10 in the Coldstream Park Elementary auditorium, 1409 Exeter Hall Ave.

Birds home after drubbing Detroit

The Baltimore Orioles tuned up for their Friday afternoon home opener against Boston with a 10 to 0 drubbing Thursday of the Detroit Tigers.

Outfielder Don Baylor and first baseman Lee May produced three runs each as Jim Palmer showed mid-season form in giving up three hits over the route.

Palmer, who was 7-12 last year when he suffered elbow and shoulder problems, had his stuff as he retired the first 12 batters before Nate Colbert singled

Aurelio Rodriguez singled in the sixth and Art James followed suit in the eighth to round out Detroit's hitting.

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May, who joined the Birds this year, slammed a three-run homer in his first at bat.

Baylor had four singles in five at bats to plate runs in the fourth, sixth and ninth innings.

Stellar third baseman Brooks Robinson singled in runs in the sixth and eighth, the last one marking his 2,700th in an illustrious career.

The Birds' other two runs came on a single in the eighth by catcher Andy Etchebarren and a sacrifice fly in the ninth by second baseman Bob Grich.

Centerfielder Paul Blair picked up three of the Orioles' 13 hits against four Detroit pitchers.

• • •

Orioles manager Earl Weaver was pleased with the Birds' opening victory and the showing of Palmer, who struck out four Tigers without putting any body on base on balls.

Weaver has said his defending titlists in the American League East are well-balanced and they looked it in the season opener.

A large opening day crowd was expected to be on hand to see lefty Mike Cuellar go against Boston.

Weaver plans to use another lefthander, Ross Grimsley, against Boston on Saturday and to show off newcomer Mike Torrez on Sunday.

CRC probes bias charges against local firm

The Community Relations Commission on Tuesday held a public hearing to probe charges of racial discrimination against Baltimore Business Forms, Inc.

The commission's staff investigators found probable cause to believe that discrimination occurred in violation of the city's equal opportunity law.

The issue in this case is differential treatment.

The complainant, Mrs. Cattie Ambrose, a bindery worker with the company since 1961, was terminated from her job for an alleged required three day period, a request for a leave of absence signed by her doctor.

Mrs. Ambrose, who is black, contends that a white fellow worker has been retained on the job despite the fact that this employee allegedly had had numerous similar violations of company rules.

Members of the Hearing Tribunal include George J. Bereska, chairman of the Tribunal; Leonard C. Butler and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Shipley. The staff position was argued by Elise Jude Mason, an assistant city solicitor assigned to CRC.

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